



AUSTRALIAN ATHLETICS PATHWAY TRANSITION PROGRAM (PTP) POLICY

Australian Athletics (**AA**) Pathway Transition Program (**PTP**) is a program that supports Australian athletes who are demonstrating potential to achieve AA's HP Program Goals and targets at Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, World Championships, and Commonwealth Games (**Benchmark Events**), but who are not yet categorised on AAs National Athlete Support Structure (**NASS**). The program provides performance support, planning assistance, and other developmental opportunities to athletes, with the strategic aim of bridging the gap between successful junior performance and medal winning performance at senior level.

AA will select athletes on to PTP on a yearly basis, via a PTP Selection Meeting following the Australian Domestic Season.

1. Aims of the AA High Performance Program and PTP

High Performance success is measured against our international peers. The goals of AA's High Performance program are:

- To achieve 7 medals, supported by an additional 6-8 top-8 places, at the Olympic Games and World Athletics World Championships in Olympic Events;
- To achieve 4-8 Gold medals, supported by an additional 16-20 silver and bronze medals, at the Paralympic Games and World Para Athletics (WPA) World Championships, in Paralympic events.
- To achieve 20 top-8 places at the World Athletics Under-20 Championships;
- To finish at the top nation on the Commonwealth Games athletics medal table and win World Athletics and World Para Athletics Championships Gold medals in non-Olympic/non-Paralympic Events.

To assist in achieving these goals, AAs NASS program provides support to selected athletes and coaches in a prioritised manner. However, AA recognise that talent development is complex and non-linear; as a result, the purpose of PTP is to support developing athletes, primarily those in, or just leaving, the Under-20 age group, who are not currently on the NASS program, as they aim to transition towards senior High Performance success.



2. PTP Overview

For 2026, Australian Athletics are able to support up to approximately 100 athletes, and their coaches, on PTP. This overall level of support is split across the following categories:

PTP Core (approximately 40 athletes)

This category of PTP is focussed on providing transition support to high performing individual athletes to ensure they are tracking towards NASS selection. Here, approximately 40 athletes, including Para athletes, will be supported and serviced in line with Section 3 (Benefits of PTP).

PTP Relays (approximately 20 athletes)

This category of PTP is focused on ensuring the ongoing strength of the Australian National Relay Program across future cycles. Here, approximately 5 athletes per sex and distance (Men's 4x100m, Women's 4x100m, Men's 4x400m, Women's 4x400m) will be selected, noting that mixed relay teams would be drawn from these athletes.

PTP Target 2032

- **Talent Transfer** (up to 15 athletes)

- **Event Group Development Projects** (up to 10 athletes)

To ensure the ongoing success of Australian Athletics, Target 2032 is focused on attracting athletes to or enhancing events that have current talent gaps.

Talent Transfer: will support up to 10 athletes in a target event through an initial talent confirmation stage and then will offer the opportunity for athletes to gain support towards achieving higher performance standards. Interested athletes will be invited to undergo testing and profiling at the PTP Talent Transfer Camp, before a target selection (of approximately 10 athletes) following the camp. The opportunity for a 2nd year extension may be offered to up to 5 athletes who are showing potential to achieve standards aligning with the identified High Performance Goals.

Should capacity exist, the selection panel will consider nominations for individual Talent Transfer projects.

Event Group Development Projects: will be identified during the 2026 Domestic Season, and will work with specific event group panels and led coaches to determine a targeted strategy and approach towards supporting an increase in performance depth and development towards the Brisbane 2032 Olympics.



PTP Overseas Athlete (approximately 20 athletes)

AA recognise that developing athletes may choose to further their education outside of Australia, and, in some cases, athletes eligible to compete for Australia may reside overseas. To ensure these athletes are supported in their development, up to approximately 20 athletes based overseas may be selected onto this category.

3. Benefits of PTP

Athletes selected to PTP, along with their coaches, will receive access to a range of resources, dependent on their PTP category. Upon selection, each athlete, and their coach, in conjunction with Australian Athletics, will complete a review document which highlights their key Gaps to Podium and plan to close those gaps. This plan will then be utilised to guide access to key resources, outlined below:

Core and Relay

- Access to key performance support services / Performance Profiling:
 - Sports Medicine
 - Sports Physiotherapy
 - Biomechanics
 - Sports Psychology
 - Sports Nutrition
 - Physiology
 - Strength and Conditioning
- Athlete Wellbeing and Engagement support
- Core - Travel assistance budget to support attendance at camps and key competitions.
- Coach development opportunities
- A national PTP camp
- Relay athletes – Additional camps / competitions will be funded and managed by the Performance Manager aligned with the program.

Target 2032

- Talent Transfer

- Access to key performance support services in a targeted nature:
 - Sports Medicine
 - Sports Physiotherapy
 - Soft Tissue Therapy
 - Biomechanics
 - Sports Psychology



- Sports Nutrition
- Physiology
- Strength and Conditioning
- Athlete Wellbeing and Engagement support
- Travel assistance budget to support attendance at camps and key competitions
- Coach development opportunities
- A talent transfer camp
- National PTP Camp (U20 athletes only)

- Event Group Development Projects

- Targeted remote performance support:
 - Sports medicine / physiotherapy
 - Biomechanics
 - Sports Psychology
 - Sports Nutrition
 - Physiology
 - Strength and Conditioning
- Athlete Wellbeing and Engagement support (Mentoring)
- Event Group Camp
 - Performance Profiling
 - Biomechanics
 - Physiology

Overseas Athletes

Recognising that, in many cases, overseas athletes will have their own local support team, AA can provide:

- Targeted remote performance support:
 - Sports medicine / physiotherapy
 - Biomechanics
 - Sports Psychology
 - Sports Nutrition
 - Physiology
 - Strength and Conditioning
- Financial support may be available for aspects such as physiotherapy and S&C use within Australia, as well as travel assistance in special circumstances.

It is expected that athletes selected to PTP will engage with the Australian HP Sporting System proactively, including strong communication with AA Pathway Staff. PTP membership has no bearing on selection for any Australian representational team.



4. Athlete Eligibility

To be eligible for selection onto PTP, athletes must:

- Satisfy all relevant eligibility and nationality rules of World Athletics, the International Olympic Committee, World Para Athletics, and/or the Commonwealth Games Federation
- Hold Australian citizenship and be eligible to represent Australia (or on a committed path to Australian citizenship to be eligible to represent Australia)
- Is a registered member of Australian Athletics via their Member Association
- In the case of para athletes, hold a national classification of “Review” or “Confirmed” status.
- Comply with all relevant AA policies, including, but not limited to, relevant Codes of Conduct, Team Agreements, Policies, and Rules.
- Complies with all applicable anti-doping requirements.
- Commit to completing a twice-yearly Individual Athlete Performance Plan with Australian Athletics-nominated support personnel.
- Not be selected onto Australian Athletics’ National Athlete Support Structure (NASS).
- Have completed an Expression of Interest (EoI) to form part of the PTP for 2026
- In the case of Overseas Athletes, be part of a study program at an overseas institution, or reside for greater than 180 days outside of Australia

5. Performance Criteria

Performance standards are not qualification standards, whereby achieving the standard determines automatic selection onto PTP. The performance standards (in Appendices) are used as an initial indication for consideration and as a guide for selectors. The capacity for an athlete to assist Australian Athletics to achieve their HP Goals will be the ultimate guide for selectors.

All athletes who meet the performance standards and athlete eligibility criteria will be added to the pool from which athlete selections will be made. The Selectors may also consider athletes for selection who have not met these performance standards, if they believe they have the potential to assist AA in meeting their Goals in future. From a performance standpoint, individual PBs are considered, but Selectors will also consider the consistency of the athletes performance across a season.



6. PTP Selectors, Selection Meetings, and Selections

The PTP Selectors will be appointed by the GM – High Performance, and will include AA High Performance staff and coaches.

Athletes will be selected on PTP on a yearly basis, following the completion of the Australian Domestic Season. There may be considerations of athletes to be selected outside of this selection meeting if required. Athletes will typically be selected for 12 months, and, if their performances or circumstances warrant it, can then be re-selected at subsequent selection meetings.

Selection for PTP is aimed at athletes who have the potential to win a medal for Australia at a World Championships, Olympic Games, or Paralympic Games. The majority of athletes selected will be in the Under-20 age group, or transitioning out of that age group into the Senior age group; however, athletes older than this can be selected on a case-by-case basis. PTP may also be used in exceptional circumstances to provide a “soft-landing” for pathways athletes removed from NASS.

For 2026 Selections, Athletes will typically be considered for selection if they meet any of the below criteria:

PTP Core and PTP Overseas Athletes

Able-Bodied

These athletes will be identified via the following means:

- For athletes in the Under-20 age group, any athlete who achieves the Australian Athletics World Under-20 standard (appendix 1)
- For athletes in the Under-23 age group, any athlete who achieves performances in the PTP performance matrix (appendix 2) relevant for their age.
- Any athlete who, in the opinion of the Selection Panel, has the potential to win a medal for Australia at a future Benchmark Event.

Para-Athletes

These athletes will be identified via the following means:

- For Under-21 athletes who have are demonstrating yearly progression to towards achieving the Para NASS B Standards within 3 years. Standards can be found within the NASS Selection policy on the Australian Athletics Website at the following link: <https://www.athletics.com.au/participant-hub/nass/>



- Any athlete who, in the opinion of the National Event Group Coaches and/or Selection Panel, has the potential to win a medal for Australia at a future Benchmark Event.

PTP Relays

These athletes will be identified via the following means:

- Athletes who have completed an EoI to form part of the Relay PTP, outlining their commitment to follow the Relay PTP Terms of Reference
- Athletes who, in the opinion of the National Relay Coaches and/or Selection Panel, have the potential to compete in the relay for Australia at a future Benchmark Event.

PTP Target 2032

Talent Transfer / Event Group Development Project

These athletes will be identified by:

- Athletes who have completed an EoI to form part of PTP Talent Transfer, outlining their commitment to the program across the membership program
- Athletes who, in the opinion of the Selection Panel and External Experts, have the potential to develop into an athlete capable of selection for Australia at a future Benchmark Event in the target event.

After viewing the athletes that meet the above selection benchmarks, the selection panel will make selections based on their absolute discretion. For the avoidance of doubt, the full quota of athletes does not need to be selected.

7. Appeals

There is no appeal process for this. However, we would advise athletes who require feedback to contact Adam Didyk, Australian Athletics Pathways Transition Manager, via email on adam.didyk@athletics.org.au. Para athletes should contact Carly Salmon, Classification and Pathways Consultant, via email on carly.salmon@athletics.org.au.



Appendix 1 – Australian Athletics World Under-20 Championships Standards

Men	Event	Women
10.50	100m	11.78
21.25	200m	24.35
47.40	400m	55.20
1:50.00	800m	2:09.00
3:47.50	1500m	4:27.00
8:04.00	3000m	9:27.00
14:08.00	5000m	16:25.00
14.05 (0.991m)	100m/110m H	14.10
53.00	400mH	1:00.75
9:00.00	3000m SC	10:36.00
20:50.00 (43:30.00)	5000m (10000m) Walk	24:00.0 (49:20.00)
2.12	HJ	1.81
5.12	PV	4.05
7.58	LJ	6.22
15.45	TJ	13.00
18.30 (6kg)	SP	14.50
56.00 (1.75kg)	DT	49.00
68.00 (6kg)	HT	57.50
68.50	JT	49.50
7100 (99cm 110mH; 6kg SP; 1.75kg DT)	Heptathlon/Decathlon (U20)	5280



Appendix 2 – PTP Under-23 Performance Matrix

Men

Event	<u>U21 (2006)</u>	<u>U22 (2005)</u>	<u>U23 (2004)</u>
100m	10.45	10.35	10.25
200m	21.10	20.95	20.80
400m	47.00	46.60	46.20
800m	1:49.00	1:48.00	1:47.00
1500m	3:45.50	3:43.00	3:40.50
3000m*	7:55.00		
5000m	14:00.00	13:50.00	13:40.00
10000m		29:30.00	29:10.00
110m H	14.10	13.95	13.75
400mH	51.60	51.00	50.50
3000m SC	8:50.00	8:45.00	8:37.00
10000m Walk	43:00.00	42:30.00	42:00.00
½ Marathon Walk	01:33.00	01:31.00	01:29.00
HJ	2.18	2.20	2.24
PV	5.20	5.35	5.45
LJ	7.68	7.79	7.90
TJ	15.90	16.20	16.50
SP	18.30	18.80	19.30
DT	56.00	58.00	60.00
HT	68.50	70.50	72.50
JT	73.00	76.00	77.50
Decathlon	7100	7200	7400



Women

Event	<u>U21 (2006)</u>	<u>U22 (2005)</u>	<u>U23 (2004)</u>
100m	11.60	11.50	11.40
200m	23.87	23.66	23.45
400m	53.75	53.15	52.80
800m	2:05.20	2:03.40	2:01.90
1500m	4:15.00	4:12.00	4:09.00
3000m	9:10.00		
5000m	16:15.00	16:00.00	15:45.00
10000m		33:20.00	32:50.00
100mH	13.58	13.38	13.20
400mH	58.90	57.85	56.80
3000m SC	10:10.00	10:00.00	9:50.00
10000m Walk	48:00.00	47:35.00	47:15.00
1/2 Marathon Walk	01:43.30	01:41.30	01:39.30
HJ	1.84	1.86	1.88
PV	4.15	4.22	4.32
LJ	6.26	6.32	6.40
TJ	13.16	13.42	13.58
SP	15.35	16.10	16.85
DT	51.50	53.00	55.50
HT	61.00	64.20	67.40
JT	52.60	54.70	56.90
Heptathlon	5500	5650	5800